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# BULLETIN

## OF THE

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Issued in  
January, March, May, July, September and  
November

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There is no subscription price and the Bulletin is sent only to members of the Association.

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### AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

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Executive offices—78 E. Washington St., Chicago.

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**I**N THE first twenty-five days of 1922, 110 new members joined the A. L. A.—14 institutional members and 96 individual members.

The membership on January 1st was 5,307. How soon can we make it 6,000?

**A**N INFORMAL statement of work done by the A. L. A. (and especially by the headquarters office) in 1921 is printed in this number of the Bulletin. Members are urged to read it and to make such criticisms and suggestions as may grow out of the reading.

**M**ANY positions are being filled each month through the employment service. These are in almost every field of library endeavor. Registrants and the A. L. A. would be saved embarrassment and employers much trouble, if those registered would notify the Assistant Secretary who is in charge of employment when they have accepted a position or are not available for one.

It would be helpful also if geographical limitations were clearly defined at the time of placing registrations.

The noticeable openings at the time of writing are for general assistants, catalogers, children's librarians and librarians to take charge of small libraries. Of course, the opportunity for specialized work occurs frequently.

No inflation in salaries is evident but neither is a decrease noticeable. Many small libraries are offering better salaries than a year ago.

**E**VERY librarian, who is interested in making the library meet the needs of the laboring man, should read "Workers Education in the United States," which is the report of the proceedings of the first national conference on workers education in the United States. It is published by the Workers Education Bureau of America, 465 West Twenty-third Street, New York City. More than forty speeches have been reported, on such subjects as "The Education the Workers Want," "Obstacles in the Way of Labor Education," and "The United Labor Education Committee."

The secretary of the Workers Education Bureau, Spencer Miller, Jr., is much interested in the educational opportunities offered by public libraries to laboring men. It is suggested that librarians, who have assembled concrete instances showing the service of the library in the field of adult education, might well communicate some of these facts to Mr. Miller.

The Adult Education movement is one in which librarians are naturally interested. Many will be pleased to know that Albert Mansbridge, author of "An Adventure in Working Class Education" (published by Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1920), chairman of the World Association for Adult Education, 13 John Street, Adelphi, London, W. C. 2, is to deliver the Lowell Institute Lectures in March, 1922, in Boston.

**L**IBRARIANS who have observed Children's Book Week will welcome the opportunities which are being offered in 1922 for further book publicity in co-operation with booksellers and publishers. The "Calendar for Booksellers" for the first six months in 1922 lists many

special features which librarians will be glad to emphasize.

The features for February to June are as follows:

February—"America's Making told in Books."

March—"Find it in Books," with special emphasis on useful books for business and useful books for the home.

April—Religious Book Week, April 2-8. "Back to Nature" books are also to be emphasized.

May—Books as graduation gifts and rewards for school children.

June—Books for vacation reading and books for wedding presents.

Detailed announcements and suggestions have been sent to booksellers by the National Association of Book Publishers, 334 Fifth Avenue, New York, in a bulletin entitled, "Year-Round Bookselling News." This bulletin will be sent to libraries on request.

A five-color lithographed poster for use in February is being prepared by the National Association of Book Publishers. Single copies will be sent to libraries on

request. A colored poster is also being prepared for use in March and will be sent by the National Association of Booksellers on request.

Libraries will naturally wish to have reading lists for free distribution as a part of their contribution to the book publicity. For February "The United States" list, compiled by Mrs. Elmendorf for the Buffalo Public Library and reprinted by the A. L. A., is most appropriate.

For March we are expecting to compile and publish two short reading lists on "Useful Books for Business" and "Useful Books for the Home."

A short reading course on religious education and Sunday school work is being prepared by the A. L. A. for use in April.

Some of these lists may also appear in *The Booklist* from time to time and the library periodicals will, no doubt, announce material which will be of value to libraries in their efforts to work with others who are engaged in promoting the use of books.

## FACTS FOR TRUSTEES

### LIBRARY TRUSTEESHIP\*

By M. F. Gallagher

PUBLIC library trustees have an important responsibility. The duties and functions of government include the education no less than the protection of citizens. The fundamental need of America is more thorough and general education. Public libraries constitute one of the most effective means of education, not second in importance to the schools and colleges but equal and supplementary. Libraries are for young and old alike. The library ideal is essentially democratic; it is, as Mr. Carnegie once remarked, "pure communism in the riches of the printed page."

The war has left us with the huge problem of reconstruction, and fortunately with a greater hunger for knowledge than ever before. The public library never had a greater usefulness or a greater work to do. There are now ten readers of a good

book to one before the war. There never before was such an interest in science, history, geography or economics. The war has also made us realize the problem of illiteracy and the need of the very elements of education by 7.7% of our population.

Ample funds are the prerequisite for meeting the new demand for library service. With governmental activities multiplying rapidly there is danger that general education may be neglected for other public work less salutary and essential. It is up to the trustees of public libraries to secure adequate funds not only for maintenance but for growth; they must see that library revenues are not curtailed in the present movement for economy. When favorable legislation is secured as in Illinois recently where the taxation rate was increased to a point assuring subsistence,

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\*Résumé of an address by Mr. M. F. Gallagher before the Indiana Library Trustees' Association, Indianapolis, November, 1921.